



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Approval No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be submitted under the authority of the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

This form must be used for Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations to the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP), Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each shortage situation. See the State Animal Health Official section of the VMLRP web site (www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Rawlins, Thomas, Decatur, Sheridan counties
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area; must be a logistically feasible veterinary practice service area)

Approximate Center of Shortage Area
(or Location of Position if Type III): Approximately 10 miles North of Rexford, KS or Approximately 25 Southwest of Oberlin, KS
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: ☐ Moderate Priority ☒ High Priority ☐ Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

☐ **Type I Shortage: Private Practice**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

May cover

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

☒ **Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- ☒ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☒ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

May cover

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☒ Dairy Cattle
☒ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

☐ **Type III Shortage: Public Practice** (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- ☐ Food Safety
☐ Public Health
☐ Epidemiology
☐ Other: _____

Please describe the **importance and objectives** of a veterinarian filling this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

An awardee selected for this shortage area is expected by the state of Kansas to devote at least 30% of their professional efforts to food animal veterinary medicine. Veterinary services are currently endangered in this area due to the high ratio of food animals to practitioners. The placement of an additional veterinarian would strengthen the local economy of this area. In areas such as this, where animal agriculture is a central industry, veterinarians serve as cornerstones. Their business provides jobs in rural areas and their activities protect the careers of the producers they serve. Veterinarians under service commitments (3 years) will potentially develop ties to the area and provide long term solutions to animal health and the local economy.

Please describe the **activities** of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

A veterinarian in this shortage situation would be expected to interact with food animal producers through the establishment of preventative herd health programs and medical, surgical and emergency services. A type II shortage situation is requested (30% food animal practice) due to the seasonal nature of food animal veterinary practice and concerns regarding the viability of an exclusive food animal practice in this area of Kansas. These seasonal activities may include, but are not limited to: breeding soundness exams, pregnancy examinations, calf processing (vaccination/dehorning/castration), and dystocia assistance. A veterinarian in this area would also be expected to serve in a regulatory capacity at the farm level participating in import/export activities, certificates of veterinary inspection and cooperative disease programs. The state of Kansas would anticipate that a veterinarian in this area would serve as an advocate for animal agriculture through participation in activities such as local fairs, 4-H and public outreach (school presentations, etc.)

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

During the 2011 VMLRP cycle, an award was made to a veterinarian for the counties of Cheyenne, Sherman (west of this area), Rawlins and Thomas (overlap with this proposed area). The state of Kansas believes that due to the large number of animals and geographical area that the 2011 and the currently proposed area cover that the addition of a second VMLRP contracted veterinarian is warranted. The state of Kansas is aware of 2 practices in this area that are actively recruiting for associate veterinarians.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

The proposed shortage area covers approximately 2400 sq. miles¹ with a cattle population of 243,000 animals². There are currently 9 full time practicing veterinarians, resulting in a final animal:practitioner ratio of 27,000:1.

If a veterinarian cannot be recruited to this area, it will be necessary for current practitioners to either: 1) travel more extensively to service all food animal clients or 2) limit / refuse services to clients. Either option, ultimately results in decreased interaction between food animal producers and veterinarians. When veterinarians are not part of the food animal production system; food safety, animal welfare and

¹ www.quickfacts.census.gov

² http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Kansas/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/ff2010.pdf

endemic/epidemic disease mitigation are all at risk. As animal agriculture is a major economic industry in the state of Kansas, the negative impact of a breach of food safety, animal welfare or disease mitigation would be catastrophic. This impact would most certainly be felt locally and regionally, but would potentially affect related industries on a national / international level. A VMLRP designated position would provide practices with additional incentive to recruit new veterinarians to this area.

(Optional) If the nominator wishes to specify a service time for this shortage situation that is higher than the minimum required for the shortage type checked on Page 1, please specify the percent time in the box below (based on a 40-hour work week). Leave the box blank if the service time for this shortage situation is for the minimum percent time of the shortage type indicated.

%

Minimum Service time required for each shortage type

Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week

Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week

Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

SAHO nominator must check both boxes below in order for NIFA to consider this nomination for official designation

- ☒ By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.
- ☒ By checking this box, I affirm that it is my professional opinion that this is a bona fide food supply or public health-related veterinary shortage situation. I affirm due diligence has been invested to identify this area as a shortage situation of at least moderate priority (severity).

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: William L. Brown DVM

Title: Animal Health Commissioner

Organization: Division of Animal Health, KS Dept of Ag

Email: William.Brown@kda.ks.gov

Telephone Number: (785) 368-6491
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OGFM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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